

Uniroyal employs 4,400 people from Will County

During 1968, over 17,000 persons were interviewed for employment by the personnel division of Uniroyal Inc., operating contractor of the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant (JAAP).

Will County accounts for approximately 4,400 of the near 8,000 employees of Uniroyal at JAAP. This represents approximately 52 per cent of the total employees. Joliet accounts for approximately 2,300 or over 27 per cent of the employees.

1968 was a very successful year at JAAP. "We maintained a high level of production in all areas in 1968 and all signs point to a busier 1969," M. J. Reynolds, superintendent of the production department, said. During 1968, two new tetryl lines were opened to bring the total to six lines. A seventh line is scheduled for 1969. There were two DNT lines producing in 1968 and one more is planned for 1969. All 12 TNT lines were operating for three full shifts in 1968. In 1969, plans have been made to upgrade these facilities. The Special Purpose Lead Azide Program was safely phased out in February, 1968, to a standby position in a high state of readiness in case the demand for it increases. In October, 1968, a new TNT production record was established.

The Load, Assemble and Pack (LAP) side of the plant saw the groups set a new record for the production of 105 MM

howitzer artillery shells in September, 1968. In addition, preparation began for the reactivation of Groups 4 and 7 for the production of 40 MM grenade shells. These two groups are planned to be in full scale production by late spring, 1969. They will employ an additional 600 employees. Also, the test firing range facilities were made ready for the testing of these shells.

The Control Dept. estimates that the 1968 total payroll will far surpass the \$55.8 million payroll of 1967. In addition, over \$500,000 a month in local purchasing was made. Efficiency was increased with the expanding of the data collecting and processing systems.

The Industrial Engineering Department saw great advances in cost reduction. Project BOOM (Better Organizational and Operational Methods) saved over \$7 million in the first five months of fiscal year 1969. The goal for the year is \$8.7 million which will be far surpassed. The suggestions system paid out \$9,790 on 439 suggestions (out of almost 4,500 received) to employees. These suggestions saved an estimated \$83,400.

The Technical and Engineering Departments made favorable advances in equipment inspection through automation. Advances were also made in water and air pollution. Jesse A. McCasland, power division manager, was named "Operator of

the Year" for 1967-68 by the Tri-County (Cook, Will and Kane) Stream Protectors Association. He received the award for outstanding service in safety, preventive maintenance, housekeeping and returning non-polluted water to streams after use by JAAP. JAAP now operates an \$8 million red water filtration plant built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This purifies the water used by JAAP before it is returned to the rivers. Also, the new Control Information Center (CIC), a unit for keeping management informed of daily and hourly production progress, was expanded to all areas, thus, giving management a better tool to keep a watchful eye on operations.

During 1968, purchased goods and services totaled over \$80 million. Small business awards totaled over \$24 million. The Stores Section of the purchasing Department handled over 200,000 requisitions for supplies.

"1968 saw a tremendous expanding of communications facilities," W. F. Hord, communications dept. supervisor said. Over 200 lines of dial telephone equipment, 30,000 feet of new and replacement cable, the installation of three new Elwood outgoing trunks and the completion of over 2,400 telephone work orders involving the installation and moving of approximately 10,000 telephone instru-

ments and equipment were just a few of the accomplishments for 1968. Orders for another 200 lines of dialing equipment have already been taken for 1969.

The Personnel Development Division of the Industrial Relation Department operated several training programs for employees which were completed by over 1,000 employees in 1968. One such program, the Pre-Employment Education Program (PEP), gained national recognition for Uniroyal's effort to train and employ the hardcore unemployed. Great effort was also made in the employing of veterans by the Personnel Division of IR. A fulltime employment mobile unit visits surrounding towns in a search for new employees. The Information and Discussion (I & D) Program has greatly helped the managerial-labor relationship. Employees have increasingly used the Labor Relations Division to help solve employment problems.

The year 1969 looks to be a year of tremendous advances. Many programs that were initiated in 1968, will be carried out in 1969. Meetings have been held for the discussion of modernization plans. With production at an all-time high and operational procedures becoming more efficient, the future for JAAP appears to be very important in its role of keeping our country's defense at a maximum.